forth: it was covered over with graſſ green matter, which ſoon dryed, and left the ſtone of a whitiſh colour, as it is to be ſeen. It is but light in proportion to its bulk, weighing about 7 grains; and 'tis much of the ſhape of our ordinary horſe-beans. There are viſible impreſſions upon it of ſome Capillary and ſmall veſſels, it was bred amongſt. Laſtly, it is ſcabrous or rough, ſand-like, although the ſubſtance is Tophaceous.

The Accidents accompaning the working away of this Stone, (for the inciſion was meerly obſtetrical,) and the place of its birth give occaſion to call the diſtemper a *Ranula*. Yet in truth this was nothing elſe but one of thoſe Tumours called *Atheroma*; and therefore we will name it *lapis Atheromatis*.

An Extract of a Letter of the ſame Mr. Liſter, *written from* York *April* 12. 1672. *concerning* animated Horſe-hairs; *rectifying a Vulgar Error.*

Sir,

I Cannot diſcover any thing new and rare in natural Philoſophy, but I muſt forthwith make you participate of my good fortune; and I aſſure you, the relation, I am about to make you, is of a thing very ſurpriſing.

It hath been credibly reported, that *Horſe hairs* thrown into water will be animated; and yet I ſhall ſhew you by an unqueſtionable obſervation, that ſuch things as are vulgarly thought animated Hairs are very Inſects, nouriſhed within the bodies of other Inſects, even as *Ichneumones* are within the bodies of Caterpillars.

I will premiſe the particulars concerning this Animal, as I find them collected by the Induſtry of *Aldrovandus*, and ſave you the trouble of that voluminous Author.

This Inſect (ſaith he) ſeems to have been unknown to the Ancients; as it is called by the moderns *ſeta aquatica* or *vermis ſetarius*, either from the moſt ſlender figure of the body; or becauſe it is thought to be generated of an horſe-hair putrifying in water. The Germans call them by a name rendred *Vituli aquatici*.

It is bred in corrupt waters; perhaps of horſe-hair, for (ſaith *Albertus* upon his own frequent trial, as I find him quoted by *Aldrovandus*,) theſe hairs, put into ſtanding water, move and are inamated, or, as he words it, *vitam & ſpiritum accipiunt, & moventur*

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tur. Others have thought them to have their birth from weeds hanging down from the banks into ponds and Rivers. Others from Locuſts and Graſhoppers (*ex Bruchis* ;) which laſt though it be near the matter, yet it is rejected by *Aldrovandus* himſelf, as the moſt unlikely.

They have been found in a cold and good ſpring, and elſewhere, (which is a wonder, ſaith *Aldrovandus*,) upon a leafe in a Garden. And this, which was there found, was 5 or 6 fingers-breadth long; the thickneſs of a briſtle Horſe-hair, with a duskiſh back, and a white belly; and the tail on every ſide white.

I ſaw (ſaith *Aldrovandus*) a black one thicker than the whitiſh one. Other Authors otherwiſe deſcribe them, as *Bertrutius*, *Albertus*, *&c.* Some affirming them to have been a cubit long; others, two cubits, others, 9 inches long at the leaſt: that they are white of colour, and ſo hard as ſcarce to be cruſhed with ones foot: to be every where of the ſame thickneſs: that they move not as wormes move, but *ſnake-like*, and knit themſelves up into knots: that their skin is one continued thing without Inciſures; and therefore ſome would exclude them from the inſect-kind: that they have no head, but ſwim both waies, and therefore may be called *amphiſbæna aquatica:* that they are poyſon, drunk down into the ſtomack, but not venom to the touch.

And thus much out of *Aldrovandus* concerning the name of this Inſect, the place of its birth and original, the place where they are to be found, its deſcription, different ſpecies, nature, poyſon &c.

Our obſervation is this. *April.* 2. there was thrown up out of the ground of my Garden, in digging amongſt other things of this nature, a certain cole-black Beetle of a midle ſize, and flat ſhape, and which I have obſerved elſewhere common enough. Theſe Beetles I diſſected upon the account of ſome curioſity, wherein I had a mind to ſatisfy myſelf. But I was ſurpriſed to find in their ſwollen bellies of theſe *Hair-wormes*, in ſome three, in others but one only. Theſe particulars we carefully noted: 1. That upon the inciſion they crawl'd forth of themſelves. 2. That putting them into water, they lived in it many daies, and did ſeem to endeavour to eſcape by lifting up their heads out of the water, and faſtning them to the ſide of the veſſels; very plainly drawing the reſt of their body forward. 3. That they cannot be

ſaid to be *amphiſbæna*, but do move forward only by the head, which is fairly diſtinguiſhable from the tail by a notable blackneſs. 4 That the three, I took out of the body of one Beetle, were all of a dark hair-colour with whitiſh bellies, ſomewhat thicker then hoggs briſtles; but I took out of the body of another beetle one that was much thicker than the reſt; much lighter coloured; and by meaſure juſt five Inches and a half long; whereas all the reſt did not exceed three inches three quarters.

An Extract of a Letter, written March 5. 1672 *by Dr.* Thomas Cornelio, *a* Neapolitan *Philoſopher and Phyſician, to* John Dodington *Eſquire, his* Majeſties *Reſident at* Venice; *concerning ſome Obſervations made of perſons pretending to be ſtung by* Tarantula's: *Engliſh'd out of the Italian.*

SIR

NOw the time approaches, that I may ſend you ſome *Tarantulas*. Mean while I ſhall not omit to impart unto you, what was related to me, a few daies ſince, by a judicious and unprejudicate perſon, which is; That being in the Country of *Otranto* (where thoſe Inſects are in great numbers,) there was a man, who thinking himſelf ſtung by a *Tarantula*, ſhew'd in his neck a ſmall ſpeck, about which in a very ſhort time there aroſe ſome pimples full of a ſerous humour, and that, in a few hours after, that poor man was ſorely afflicted with very violent ſymptoms, as *Syncope's*, very great agitations, giddines of the head, and vomit; but that without any inclination at all to dance, and without all deſire of having any muſical inſtruments, he miſerably dyed within two daies.

The ſame perſon affirm'd to me, that all thoſe that think themſelves bitten by *Tarantula's*, (except ſuch, as for ſome ends fain themſelves to be ſo,) are for the moſt part young wanton girles, (whom the Italian writer calls *Dolci di ſale*,) who by ſome particular indiſpoſition falling into this melancholly madneſs, perſwade themſelves according to the vulgar prejudice, to have been ſtung by a *Tarantula*. And I remember to have obſerved in *Calabria* ſome women, who ſeiſed on by ſome ſuch accidents were counted to be poſſeſs'd with the Divel; it being the common belief in that Province, that the greateſt part of the evils, which afflict man-kind, proceeds from evil Spirits.

This brings to my mind a terrible evil, which often enough

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